CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS ON "AN INVESTIGATION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME WIND TIDES ON LAKE ERIE"

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The article by Irish and Platzman [1] was most interesting.

One feature, however, that was not mentioned is that Lake Erie is frequently frozen over in the late winter. This in itself would account for the very low frequency of high set-ups and is not related to storm intensity as might be inferred from the statement on page 42, "Extreme set-up is, of course, highly dependent upon storm *intensity*, and here again November is a favored month for the Great Lakes region." The secondary peak in March, as mentioned in the last paragraph on page 42, is more than likely due to the release of the Lake from its ice-bound state.

In cases where the Lake is not completely frozen over, the broken ice packs can have a considerable damping effect on the wave motion of the Lake and consequently the high set-up of many intense storms during January, February, and March would be reduced considerably.

I trust that information on winter ice conditions will be brought out by the authors in their future papers covering lake research.

REFERENCE

1. Shirley M. Irish and George W. Platzman, "An Investigation of the Meteorological Conditions Associated with Extreme Wind Tides on Lake Erie," *Monthly Weather Review*, vol. 90, No. 2, February 1962, pp. 39–47.

REPLY

SHIRLEY M. IRISH and GEORGE W. PLATZMAN

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We welcome Mr. McMullen's comments about the inhibiting role of ice cover on Lake Erie wind tides.

In the course of our investigation we did in fact attempt to assess the effect of ice in specific synoptic situations, but we did not find data suitable either for this purpose or for a climatological analysis. Mr. McMullen's suggestion that ice cover may have an important effect upon the monthly distribution of set-up frequency is a most interesting one.

We hope that Mr. McMullen will publish quantitative data on ice cover, or bring to our attention any existing publications that would be pertinent to our study.